

and when the particulates are deposited so as to laminate, even if they are the easily oxidized particulates, these particulates may not be oxidized since these particulates are separated away from platinum Pt or from the NO_x absorbent. Accordingly, other particulates deposit successively on these particulates 64. That is, when the state where the amount of emitted particulates (M) is larger than the amount of particulates that can be oxidized and removed (G) continues, the particulates deposit to laminate on the particulate filter.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1 and 5 as follows:

Sub 01 1. (Amended) A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine comprising:

a particulate filter arranged in the exhaust system, which carries a catalyst for absorbing and reducing NO_x, said catalyst absorbing NO_x when the air-fuel ratio in the surrounding atmosphere thereof is lean and releasing the absorbed NO_x to purify NO_x by reduction when said air-fuel ratio is stoichiometric or rich; and

a catalytic apparatus for purifying NO_x arranged in the exhaust system upstream of said particulate filter, which carries said catalyst for absorbing and reducing NO_x.

Sub 05 5. (Amended) A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine comprising:

a particulate filter arranged in the exhaust system, which carries an oxidation catalyst for absorbing NO_x when the air-fuel ratio is lean and releasing NO_x when the air-fuel ratio is stoichiometric or rich; and

a catalytic apparatus for purifying NO_x arranged in the exhaust system upstream of said particulate filter.